

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, February 12. 1708.

I Have brought the Affair of the *East-India* Trade to this short Head, That by its prodigious Increase it had almost ruin'd our Manufactures of Stuffs and Silk, and turn'd Multitudes of our People out of their Employment; That the Manufactures were ruin'd, I think, is made plain; that the poor People were thrown out of their Employments, and ran starving and begging about the Country, putting their Hands into every Drudgery that came in their Way, is but too plain; there are Thousands of miserable Witnesses alive to confirm it—— But how shall we prove, that this was occasion'd by the *East-India* Company, or by the Flux of Silks, &c. from the *East-India* Trade?

I'll tell you how I prove it, and I believe, it will be allow'd me to be a most rational Method; I prove it thus:

1. That, till the *East-India* Goods did thus flow in upon us, and till our thoughtless Gentry fell in with the fatal Gust of making them their Mode both of Dress and Furniture, as has been noted, it was not so.

2. That the Decrease of the Manufacture bore a true Alternative to the Increase of the foreign Silks, &c. and these decay'd in a true Proportion, just as they advanc'd; the Depth of our Consumption in Manufactures kept Time with the Height of our *East-India* Frenzy.

3. And, which is the principal Argument, as soon as the *East-India* Silks, &c. met with a Checque by the late happy Prohibition, the Manufacture sensibly reviv'd; and this Prohibition having been so strictly made, as to amount to a perfect Exclusion, the *East-India* Goods being come to the Extremity of Disuse, the Manufactures are

re-

recover'd again, not to what they lost only, but to a higher Magnitude than ever they were at before.

The Two first of these I have sufficiently prov'd, in that Part of the Work I have gone thorough, to which I referr; the last remains for Demonstration.

And I begin with *Canterbury*, whose flourishing Condition was reduc'd from 1000 Looms to under 50; and I appeal to the Gentlemen concern'd in that Trade, if there were near 50 Looms left in that City at the Time of the Prohibition—It is not requisite to my Argument to prove, there are just as many Looms in that City as before, because one Circumstance alters it, *viç.* That the People fled with the Trade, and left the Place, and it is not possible to recover the Numbers of People immediately: But this is sufficient, the Number of Looms is encreas'd fully up to the Proportion of the Number of the People there are to their Employ; and this may be added, that those People also daily encrease again; the Merchants concern'd here for them hire all the Journey-men they can get for them, and offer a Guinea a Head Advance-Money to every Workman that will go down to them; the Number of Looms are already recover'd to above 500, and if they are not reach'd up to the first Number, 'tis visible, the Reason is Want of People, not Want of Trade.

From hence I come to *Norwich*; and except a few, of which Sort we have always some, who will be ever complaining, let things go well or ill; except these, I say, you cannot find a Complainer; here is not a Family, or a Workman, that can say they want Work; the whole City, the whole County is full of Business, and I believe, I may say of this Country, notwithstanding the War, notwithstanding the general Checque upon our foreign Exports, the Losses at Sea, and in our Colonies, this Country thrives, they have a full Trade, no Man wants Employment, no Man wants a Market for his Goods, nor a Market-Price neither. In short, all the Decay, I have insisted on, is recover'd, and Crowds of poor People flock thither from the Neigh-

bouring Counties, whose Manufactures, depending upon the *Spanish* Trade, are now under declining Circumstances.

I freely appeal to the People concern'd in these Trades for the Truth of this, and I could enlarge in the particular Branches of the Trade, which have more than ordinarily encreas'd, and illustrate it from the more than ordinary Agreement they have with my Argument, *viç.* The Rise of this Trade, on the Fall of the *East-India* Trade; but I shall come to that presently.

Let me now look a little nearer Home into *Spittle-Fields*, and here I could summon a Cloud of Witnesses to make good the Allegation. But to begin with the *Terra-Firma*; SPEAK, LANDLORDS! You that made nothing of your Tenements, that had your Houses seiz'd for Ground-Rent, or that thought it not worth while to repair them when empty, having no Expectation of Tenants to take them; that let whole Streets of new Foundations run to Ruin, as not worth while to finish them, and let the Ground-Landlord sell them to make Good your Contrasts; that saw the People fly from whole Streets together, and whole *Spittle-Fields* going the direct Way to Desolation: Well, thus it was, That every Body will own, *but how stands it now?* Where are your empty Houses now, Gentlemen? Or where are the Houses that would be sold for Finishing, or for Ground-Rent? Are the People in *Spittle-Fields* return'd or no? Are the empty Streets supply'd or no? Nay rather, is not *Spittle-Fields* so full now, that there being no Room for more People, every Body is building more Houses, and the Surplus of Families have spread themselves into other half built Places, that were before languishing for Want of People, and revived them; as particularly the Buildings about *Hoxton-Square*, *Upper Moor-Fields*, *Old-Street*; the *Mint*, and other Places in *Southmark*; and in short, every Place, where Houses are to had, are replenish'd by this Restoration of Trade? In *Spittle-Fields* Houses are scarcer to be had, and lett for better Rents, in Proportion, than in *Cheapside*; and that whole Place being not able to contain the Trade, a new Plantation, as it were, of the Stuff-Trade, is

now erected in *Southwark*, and other Places, and whole Counties are employ'd in Spinning, to supply this City with Yarn; Counties, that never spun before, are set to Work by it; nay, such is the Encrease of the Trade, and the Want of Yarn, that since

the Union, I have been sent to into *Scotland* to see, if any Spinning-Work could be found among our Neighbours in the *North*—And all this since the Prohibition of the *East-India* Goods; I shall enter farther into Particulars in my next.

MISCELLANEA.

Self-Defence, as the Law of Nature, justifies our opposing Strength to Violence, and uniting against Oppression; and this forces me to spend more Time in answering a vile and contemptible Accuser, than really He or his Party is worth, either in ale or the Reader.

The *Rehearsal*, in his usual *Billinggate*, having forgotten his old Acknowledgment, that cool Reasoning was most to the Purpose, as well as most decent, falls upon me now in the true 30th of *January* Temper, for comparing the Sufferings of King *James I.* with those of King *Charles I.* and the Comparison between Dry and Wet Martyrdom; I shall do in this, as I have done in the former Cases I have handled, not trouble myself to answer his Cavils, or state the Matter of Fact; first, as it respects my self, and secondly, as it respects the said Princes.

First, As to my Self; the Occasion of my bringing this Comparison upon the Stage, was plainly express'd with it, and is with the Argument itself at large handled by me in the Preface to a Book, Entitled *Fure Divino*, a Satyr upon Tyranny and Passive-Obedience, Folio 11, 12, 13, 14. And as I always do in such Cases to anticipate the Impertinence of such cavilling People, as the *Rehearsal*, so I did here, explain'd my Meaning before I began, in these Words, Fol. 11. That I am not enquiring into the Causes which brought either of these unfortunate Princes into Distress, but I am speaking of the sufferings respecting themselves.

Secondly, I fairly printed them, Fol. 12. in these Words—— And here let me enter a due Caution; I do not, by beigning the Guilt of the last, attempt to lessen the Guilt of the first, nor am I concern'd in it.

Thirdly, This was printed three Years ago, my Reasons and Opinion plainly publish'd, and the Argument fully answer'd; the Author's Design therefore cannot be to argue, but must really, asking the Reader's Pardon for the Word, be villainous, and that personally so, to suggest, that I would hereby justify or lessen the Case of King *Charles I.*

Now, tho' my Opinion of King *Charles I.*'s Sufferings are not at all material in this Case, yet to shew the World how ungentlemanly this Author uses me, it is needful to tell you, what the Subject and Argument is, upon which this Case is brought, and then who this is that cavils at it?

In all my Prosecution of the Affair of Passive-Obedience, I have remark'd this upon the Pretenders to it; That they, who push'd King *James* upon it to his Ruin, were some of the first who took up Arms against him, and flew in his Face, and after they had ruin'd him, made their Fortunes of his Spoils.

Now the Sum of the Argument is this; I believe, no Man will suspect me of favouring King *James's* Interest, or Satyrizing the Revolution: But give me leave to say, that these, who upon that blind Imposition of Passive-Obedience had persuaded him to trust them, and to depend upon their Assistance, in defending the Invasions of his Country and his Subjects Liberties, were no less Villains, nay they were double Traytors; first, to their Country, in giving up its Constitution to Tyranny; and secondly, to their Prince, to whom they had sworn in the very Terms of Tyranny, and who they had prompted to the very Practice they ruin'd him for, and betray'd him in.